



Alternative Cleaners List to Avoid or Reduce Chemicals



Hazardous Chemical	Best & Safer Alternative Cleaner
Aerosols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use non-aerosol products • Deodorants -rolls, creams, sticks • Cooking sprays -cooking oils • Shaving cream -brush and shaving soap • Hair sprays -setting lotions, gels, pump sprays • Cleaners -pump sprays
Air Freshener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave an open box of baking soda in the room • Set out a dish of vinegar • Add cloves, cinnamon, vanilla to boiling water, simmer for 5 minutes • Use herbs or potpourri
All-Purpose Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix 1 quart warm water, 1 teaspoon liquid soap, lemon juice, and/or vinegar; make stronger according to the job • Baking soda with water
Ant Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pour a line of cream of tartar at a place where ants enter the house • Sprinkle red chili, paprika, or dried peppermint where ants enter • Caulk or weather-strip entry points
Carpet Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use soap-based, non-aerosols cleaners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean stains immediately with club soda • Sprinkle cornstarch and vacuum • Rub dry baking soda into grease • Combine equal parts vinegar & water to remove winter salt residue
Chlorine Bleach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use safer & less destructive dry bleach to whiten
Disinfectant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ½ cup borax in 1-gallon water
Drain Opener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plunger or mechanical snake • Handful of baking soda and ½ cup vinegar, followed by boiling water • Use enzymatic biological drain cleaner • To prevent clogging, flush drain weekly with boiling water • To prevent clogging, use a strainer to keep hair, lint, etc. out of the drain
Fabric Softener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse cotton & wool blankets with 2 cups white vinegar added to the washer
Floor Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mop with 1 cup white vinegar with 2 gallons of water • Polish with club soda
Furniture Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe with a mixture of 1 teaspoon lemon oil in 1-pint mineral or vegetable oil • Try 3 parts olive oil, 1 part vinegar • Try 1 part lemon juice, 2 parts vegetable oil
Glue/Decal Remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soak in white vinegar
Grout Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a toothbrush with either undiluted vinegar, 3 parts baking soda with one part water, toothpaste, or denture cream
Hair Colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use plant-derived rinses

Insecticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select pest-resistant plants • Plant garlic cloves at 1-foot intervals in gardens
Insecticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use traps or spray soaps • Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 tablespoon dried hot pepper, and 1 teaspoon pure soap in 1-gallon hot water; let sit 1-2 days; strain; spray on plants
Insect Repellants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't wear scented colognes, shaving lotions, or shampoos when outdoors • Use chamomile tea as a lotion • Burn citronella candles, punk, or mosquito coils
Metal Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brass - Worcestershire sauce • Chrome - Apple cider vinegar or baking soda and a soft cloth • Copper - Vinegar and salt; or lemon and salt • Pewter - Rub with fine steel wool dipped in olive oil, wash in soapy water, and dry; or polish with cabbage leaves
Metal Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver - Soak in 1-quart warm water with 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, and a piece of aluminum foil; or rub with ammonia and soft cloth, or soak in buttermilk or sour milk overnight • Stainless steel - Wash with 1-quart warm water and 3 tablespoons baking soda; rinse with hot water
Mildew/Soap Scum Remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup vinegar, and warm water
Moth Balls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try one of the following - cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, white peppercorns, cloves, dried lemon peels • Keep garment clean - wrap in linen or seal in paper or cardboard boxes

Oven Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe up the oven spill as soon as possible • Catch spills under the baking pan with a baking sheet • Sprinkle salt and baking soda on a spill while the oven is still warm. Scour with steel wool and baking soda for baked-on grease, wipe with ammonia, let sit overnight; then scrub with baking soda
Scouring Powder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking soda (do not use on aluminum) or salt
Stain Remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a paste of washing soda and water; club soda, lemon juice, and hot water
Deodorant stains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rub lightly with white vinegar and launder as usual
Wine/coffee stains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean stains immediately with club soda
Coffee/tea stains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal parts moist salt and vinegar; or baking soda solution of 3 tablespoons baking soda & 1-quart water
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use baking soda and vinegar paste. Let sit for 2 hours, then scrub.
Window Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ½ cup vinegar in 1-gallon warm water, use newspaper to dry glass

Avoid hazardous waste substances!